

## Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 232107Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2921

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS: SOPN SNAR PROP ASEC VE

SUBJ: CARACAS PAPERS ACCUSE DEA AGENTS OF WORKING FOR CIA

1 ON APR 22 CARACAS SENSATIONALIST DAILIES ULTIMAS NOTICIAS AND EL MUNDO (BOTH OWNED BY THE CAPRILES CHAIN) AND PUNTO(OWNED BY THE FAR LEFT MOVIMIENTO AL SOCIALISMO-MAS) CARRIED A PRENSA LATINA (PL) SOTRY DATELINED HAVANA QUOTING SELF-DECLARED EX-CIA AGENT MANUEL DEARMAS AS STATING THT EMBASSY CARACAS OFFICIALS FRED DUNCAN AND "DUCK PHILIP" (APPARENTLY LEE PHILIPS) ARE CIA AGENTS CHARGED WITH PROVOKING A BREAK IN CUBA-VENEZUELA RELATIONS. DUNCAN AND PHILIPS ARE IN FACT DEA SPECIAL AGENTS IN THE CARACAS REGIONAL OFFICE. AN EMBASSY DENIAL OF THE PL CHARGES IN THE MORNING PUNTO AND ULTIMAS NOTICIAS WAS GIVEN ONE PARAGRAPH IN AFTERNOON EL MUNDO WHICH DEDICATED HALF OF ITS FRONT PAGE TO THE STORY. EL MUNDO ALSO REPORTED THAT VENEZUELAN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE (DIM) HAD BEEN ORDERED TO INVESTIGATE THE PL CHARGES. DEARMAS GOES INTO CONSIDERABLE DETAIL ABOUT THE ALLEGED CIA OPERATION NAMING A NUMBER OF PROMINENT CARACAS ANTI-COMMUNISTS AS "CIA AGENTS" AND ACCUSING THE CIA OF ASSASSINATING A CUBAN EXILE LEADER IN MIAMI. THE RESPECTED DAILY EL NACIONAL ALSO CARRIED A VERY ABBREVIATED VERSION OF THE PL STORY ON APRIL 22 MENTIONING NO NAMES. THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY

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JOURNAL CARRIED THE PL STORY (OFF THE AP WIRE) ON APRIL 23

ALONG WITH THE EMBASSY DENAIL AND A DENAIL BY THE GOVT  
THAT DIM IS INVESTIGATING THE ACCUSATIONS. THE APREIL 23  
ULTIMAS NOTICIAS ALSO CARRIED THE EMBASSY DENAIL ALONG WITH A  
CALL BY FELIX MARTINEZ SUAREZ (ONE OF DEARMAS' "CIA/ AGENTS)  
FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN CARACAS.

2. COMMENT: NORMALLY ANTI-COMMUNIST, ANTI-CUBAN ULTIMAS NOTICIAS  
AND EL MUNDO ARE APPARENTLY PLYAING THE STORY HARD BECAUSE DEARMAS  
IS THE NAME OF CAPRILES' RIVAL SENSATIONALIST PUBLISHER IN CARCAS.  
PUNTO FREQUENTLY CARRIES STORIES OF TIS TYPE WITH LITTLE  
IMPACT DUE TO ITS SMALL CICRULATION AND ITS KNOWN IDEOLOGICAL  
BIAS. ACCORDING TO DEA MANUAL DEARMAS SERVED AS AN INFORMANT  
FOR THEIR MIAMI REGIONAL OFFICE. EARLY THIS YEAR HE WAS  
SENT TO CARACAS BY THE MIAMI OFFICE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH A  
NARCOTIC TRAFFICKER; HOWEVER,HIS SERVICES WERE TERMINATED BY THE  
CARACAS REGIONAL OFFICE AND HE WAS SENT BACK TO MIAMI WHEN DEA  
LEARNED HE HAD CONTACT WITH THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN ARCAS.

SHLAUDEMAN

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